

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-19 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 5-9, 11, and 12 are amended, and claim 19 is added. Claims 1 and 9 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Examiner's Election of Species Requirement

In this current Office Action, the Examiner states that the Applicant's election is treated without traverse, because the Applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement.

To review, in the Office Action dated September 12, 2003, the Examiner set forth an election of species requirement with regard to the present application. The grouping of the Figures by the Examiner was as follows:

Group I - Figure 1; and Group II - Figure 3.

The Examiner stated that claim 1 is generic.

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's election of species requirement, in the response dated November 20, 2003, the Applicant elected (with traverse) the species of Group II for initial examination, and elected claims 1-18 for initial examination as follows:

Group II -Figures 3-5; Claims readable on this Species: 1-18

In response to the comments in this latest Office Action, the Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner to paragraph [0023] of the specification and FIG. 3.

As indicated, FIG.3 is a block diagram functionally illustrating the main section of the present invention shown in FIG 1. With reference to FIG. 3, components similar to those described with reference to FIG. 1 are denoted by the same references.

The elements claimed in elected claims 1-18 are those illustrated in FIG. 3.

Further, “display means”, as set forth in generic claim 1, is shown FIGS. 3 and 5; and “relative positional relationship”, as set forth in generic claim 1, is shown in FIG. 4.

In view of the above, the Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims of the present application are directed to Species II.

Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his election of species requirement and act on all of the claims in the present application.

Specification Amendment

The specification is amended merely to correct a typographical error.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Gutierrez (U.S. 6,654,687). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner’s rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the present application, independent claim 1 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a navigational system for detecting a current positional

information, including said display means also displaying an identification information corresponding to said other navigational systems when a distance between said navigational system and said other navigational systems has exceeded a predetermined limit distance set by an operator.

Support for display means also displaying an identification information corresponding to said other navigational systems when a distance between said navigational system and said other navigational systems has exceeded a predetermined limit distance set by an operator can be found in the specification, for example, in paragraph [0035].

In addition, dependent claim 9 is amended and is presented herein as an independent claim 9 combining the subject matter of independent claim 1 (as originally filed) and novel subject matter contained in claim 9.

As such, independent claim 9 recites a combination of elements directed to a navigational system for detecting a current positional information, including transmitting means for transmitting positional information of said navigational system;

receiving means for receiving positional information of other navigational systems;

relative position determining means for determining a relative positional relationship including a relative distance between said navigational system and said other navigational systems on the basis of the positional information of said navigational system and said other navigational systems;

reference position detecting means for detecting a predetermined reference position on the basis of the positional information of said navigational system and said other navigational systems; and

display means for displaying said relative positional relationship.

Support for reference position detecting means for detecting a predetermined reference position on the basis of the positional information of said navigational system and said other navigational systems can be found in the specification, for example, in paragraph [0028]. See also FIG. 4.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combinations of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 and 9 are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Gutierrez.

As the Examiner concedes, the Gutierrez system is directed to a collision prevention system. Nowhere in Gutierrez is there any teaching or suggestion, for example, of either:

display means also displaying an identification information corresponding to said other navigational systems when a distance between said navigational system and said other navigational systems has exceeded a predetermined limit distance set by an operator (as set forth in claim 1 of the present invention); or

reference position detecting means for detecting a predetermined reference position on the basis of the positional information of said navigational system and said other navigational systems (as set forth in independent claim 9).

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the combinations of elements as set forth in independent claims 1 and 9 are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Gutierrez.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 9 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 2, 5-8, 11, and 12 are amended. Also, and dependent claim 19 is added to set forth additional novel features of the present invention.

All dependent claims are now in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

*Application No. 10/074,031
Amendment dated April 14, 2004
Reply to Office Action of January 20, 2004*

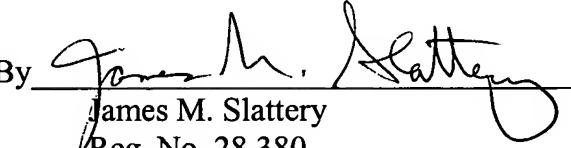
*Docket No. 0505-0956P
Art Unit: 3661
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If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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